Representation from Residents of Border areas for withdrawal of Armed Forces

778. SHRI MOTI LAL VORA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the residents of border areas for withdrawal of the army from the border areas due to prevailing drought conditions in Rajasthan and Punjab;

(b) whether it is a fact that no compensation has been paid for the large number of cattle killed by landmines, for the destruction of crops and for displacement of rural labourers of that areas;

(c) if so, the details of other demands made thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) As per available information, no representation from residents of border areas for the withdrawal of the Army due to prevailing drought conditions in the States bordering Pakistan has been received.

(b) to (d) The amount of compensation paid/being paid to concerned States for farmers whose crops were adversely affected by deployment, and land or buildings which were acquired/rented, etc. is approximately Rs. 300 crore.

Cag Criticism on Purchases made during Kargil War

779. SHRI LAJPAT RAI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that CAG in its latest report has criticised Government with regard to the purchase of anti-aircraft missiles and bombs during the Kargil war 'Operation Vijay'; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its latest Report for the Year ended 31st March, 2001 has pointed out that Government made unnecessary procurement of missiles for Kargil operations. The matter is under consideration of Public Accounts Committee of Parliament, where the Ministry's reply has been submitted.